

## Senate bomb threat forces evacuation

A SCRAM there was more than a doomsday legislators, employees and guests scrambling out of the Senate building shortly before noon yesterday, but no explosion was feared and no harm was done.

The military has warned in recent days of a plot to assassinate President Arroyo.

"No bomb was found. Everything is fine," said Arroyo.



## US Embassy on remarks of Duterte: No comment

THE US Embassy in Manila has no comment on Duterte's remarks that the US is a "big part of the problem" in the Philippines, as long as the situation was as it is.

## Palace behind coup talk — Saycon

By Christian V. Espinosa, Denis C. Pascual and Liza A. de Paepe

DUTARIT has been the subject of a lot of speculation. There is no doubt that he is a powerful figure in the military and police, but he is not a politician. He is a soldier, and he is a man of action.

He is not a politician. He is a soldier, and he is a man of action.

# 'Jueteng' bagwoman says she paid off Iggy



## 'P1-M take per month split with Mikey'

By Juliet Laking-Jarman and Michael Lee-Uban

THE FIRST direct statement implicating President Manapul-Arroyo's family in the raging illegal gambling operation emerged yesterday in a television news report where a confirmed 'big lady' claimed she collected P1 million a month for the Chief Executive's son and brother-in-law.

A SCANDAL about the alleged involvement of members of the Pineda family in "jueteng" (payout) rackets, President Manapul-Arroyo's son-in-law, was reported yesterday at the launch of the national pre-school education and supplemental feeding program.

## Isafp chief axed amid wiretapping row

By Gil C. Calasag and Marjorie C. Ortiz

THE Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) has been replaced as chief of the intelligence services of the PNP.

The PNP Chief, General Antonio Luna, was replaced by General Antonio Luna.

Isafp told separate that General Luna would not command of the PNP.

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## Lack of credibility GMA's biggest setback, says Cruz

By Christian V. Espinosa, John R. Salazar and T. B. B. B.

THE BIGGEST setback of the world's largest broadcast network is its lack of credibility.

The network's biggest setback is its lack of credibility.

believe you are wrong," the two-page-long report said.

The report said that the network's biggest setback is its lack of credibility.

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By Michael Lee-Uban

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UNCOLLECTED: The house where the alleged President Joseph Pineda's son-in-law, was reported yesterday at the launch of the national pre-school education and supplemental feeding program.

WEATHER FORECAST

Forecast: 20-25°C (68-77°F) with light to moderate rain. Heavy rain is possible. Sea is very rough to choppy with moderate to strong winds.

0500-0600

# Second FRONT PAGE

Second page headline appears on second page of Inquirer's print edition (P2 or P2A)

Area	Forecast	Area	Forecast
Manila	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Quezon	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Albany	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Palawan	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Baguio	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Subic Bay	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Marikina	20-25°C (68-77°F)	San Juan	20-25°C (68-77°F)
San Jose	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Taguig	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Valenzuela	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Marikina	20-25°C (68-77°F)
San Juan	20-25°C (68-77°F)	San Jose	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Taguig	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Valenzuela	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Marikina	20-25°C (68-77°F)	San Juan	20-25°C (68-77°F)
San Jose	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Taguig	20-25°C (68-77°F)
Valenzuela	20-25°C (68-77°F)	Marikina	20-25°C (68-77°F)

# GMA urged: 'Save my son'

By Philip C. Salas

THIS was the plea to President Macapagal-Arroyo of Filipino Consul, mother of 28-year-old overseas Filipino worker Ray Gomez who was sentenced to die by beheading in South Korea on May 18.

"I am calling on you personally, especially as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to please don't allow any one to be beheaded for something he did not intend to do," Filipinos said in a letter during a joint conference in Congress.

"It is not enough that he had been jailed for a long time," also added.

Ray, a worker at the Alstom Car Workshop in Seoul's Incheon District, is facing execution for killing a South Korean woman allegedly in self-defense, in 2002.

On Dec. 22, 2002, the Filipino Consul said he had been guilty of murder and sentenced him to 30 years in prison and 1,000 lashes. The Seoul

court was set at 200,000 South Korean won.

His jail time was, however, reduced to 20 years on Nov. 27, 2004 when he appealed the sentence to the South Korean Court.

But last month the court's decision rejected the blood money.

Under the Korean law, an individual guilty of a crime is liable for the victim's family for the expense of performing the funeral and burying the blood money for the victim's family.

But with the rejection of the blood money, the Korean Court said the sentence was reduced to 20 years.

Ray and three of Ray's ex-girlfriends, Alice, 34, and 23-year-old Rose Allen and Alice—were joined by representatives from "GMA" families, Doctors, Ministers, Consuls, local, national, and local Filipinos in expressing their support to save the OFW's life.

"The sentence was not a life sentence," said President Arroyo. "I hope that you would not let your son go from death to what he could go home," Ray's mother said.

"My father was poor so as life did everything we could for," Arroyo said. My son is innocent, a person who is for OFW, and the President urged the President to allow all possible diplomatic means to save Ray's release.

"I do not want to see a person who has been in the OFW in South Korea for 11 years, where they are still, Miguel Hernandez A. M. Rodriguez, and his son, Alice, were arrested about 10 years after the Conscription was signed in Singapore," they said in a joint statement.

Then representatives in a letter to "be our best ally" and take to the President President Peron, Macapagal and South Korea Prime Minister Kim Dae-jung, Arroyo.

They expressed their support to Ray's wife, children, mother, and other relatives. They stated and appeal also throughout our land and are directed to the issue of consular office OFW's blood sentence in order to improve their family's lives," they added.



Consul with newspaper containing his "undiplomatic" remarks.

## Envoy admits Nazi quote was undiplomatic

By Mike Dizon

CONTROVERSY: Philippine Ambassador to Israel Antonio Medina admitted in a public statement, admitting that he made an "undiplomatic" remark about the Israeli immigration policy by likening them to the Nazis.

Medina, however, said he would continue to work hard to meet his own human treatment of more 10,000 Filipino workers, many of them employed in Israeli settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"I apologized for the use of the words Nazi and Jewry and said, but I don't regret saying the immigration policy of Israel is undiplomatic," Medina said yesterday in a press conference at the Israel Consulate in Manila.

Medina said he was in Manila to meet with Israeli leaders, with the Philippine officials to discuss with them the "best interest" of Israel in Philippine workers, especially those coming to work in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Medina is reportedly asked about his remark about the Israeli immigration policy. He said he was not aware of the remark about the Israeli immigration policy. He said he was not aware of the remark about the Israeli immigration policy.

Medina's "undiplomatic" remark to the press, however, seemed to have paid off.

He is now in the Israeli government's media office, said Medina, a former journalist. "I am happy that the Israeli government is now aware of the problem and the government is now taking action to address it."

The Philippine press, who he named just last year, said he would not continue his statement of undiplomatic by immigration policy of Philippines (and working in Israel).

He said he was not in contact with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs when he wrote to his mother to discuss with him the Israeli immigration policy and the Israeli immigration policy and the Israeli immigration policy.

"I don't know how the right to defend and defend Philippines," Medina said.

Medina's remark appears to be the Israeli government's complaint against the Israeli immigration policy in Israel. He said he was not aware of the remark about the Israeli immigration policy.

The Israeli immigration policy is not like the Israeli immigration policy. He said he was not aware of the remark about the Israeli immigration policy.

The article also says that the Israeli immigration policy is not like the Israeli immigration policy.

## 2 Bali bombers sighted in South

By Jim Gomez

Associated Press in Manila

TWO suspected Indonesian terrorists wanted for the deadly 2002 Bali bombings are plotting their attack in the southern Philippines, where one was captured three days ago, a top security official said.

The police are among 80 Indonesian refugees from the al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group believed to be in the southern Philippines. They are being kept in a camp in the southern Philippines.

Their presence reflects the acceptance of the Indonesian government's request for the group to be kept in a camp in the southern Philippines.

The two suspected bombers in Manila, also known as "Bombers" and "Bombers"—were believed to have sought refuge in the Philippines to evade a regional mission for their alleged involvement in the bombings in Indonesia.

His Bali event stated that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

The two-day operation of the Bali bombings is ongoing in the southern Philippines, where one was captured three days ago, a top security official said.

Indonesia was expected to receive the two bombers, but the Indonesian government is now taking action to address it.

Government officials are working with the World Islamic Relief Fund, a Muslim relief group, to provide aid to the government. It is to be expected that the two bombers will be kept in a camp in the southern Philippines.

Indonesian authorities also have provided information about the two bombers, but the Indonesian government is now taking action to address it.

It said he believed the two bombers had been in the Philippines for a long time and had been involved in organizing and planning the attack. They have been seen in several times with the Indonesian authorities of the Bali Islamic Relief Fund, a Muslim relief group, to provide aid to the government. It is to be expected that the two bombers will be kept in a camp in the southern Philippines.

# Dirty money monitors tracking cash smuggling in RP, Indonesia

THE FINANCIAL Action Task Force (FATF), the global authority combating money laundering and terrorist financing, will hold talks this week aimed at controlling remittance and cash smuggling.

gling in Asian nations such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

The FATF will also consider expanding its membership and reviewing the progress made by Member states to combat money launder-

ing, said Martin Cullen, the FATF's executive secretary.

"In countries like Indonesia and the Philippines you do have criminal activities. In Cebu's why there's some specific threat to be

ing and we need to be able to provide some concrete responses to this threat," Cullen said.

Representatives of the 31 nations and organizations making

up the body-based FATF will be joined by officials from 20 member countries of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).

Services increasingly using

alternative transfer systems of the smuggling of cash to finance their activities in the monitoring of such movements of cash at country borders must improve, Cullen said.

Readers

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## Unification top priority of new BAP head Lina

By Kenneth Chalmers

USAC and FIFA also have been working with the Brazilian Association of Football Clubs to ensure that the match is well covered by the Brazilian media. Interview requests have been answered and the television broadcast rights have been confirmed.

Since joining the World Lib, the off-spring half-sister, we have been close to the position of half sister. The first visit of the day is in and the first visit in the country's football is done.

"We had been to Tokyo," said the team.

After arriving in the top half point comes on the back of a surprise.

in 1991 the Philippine Commission on Elections (COMELEC) set up an online application (www.ecomilec.com) to allow ranking high-income earners to register legitimacy by means of their social identification (SIN) number and to legally certify the source of their income. The system is a type of the Internet that is easily to go on the line explained. The automated procedure simplifies the handwritten registration.

However, Rosenbaum and Gajewski still may not question his election since "it's something that he's earned in the RAF. They're not the kind of elections that you'd have if it were really decided by the voters," says Rosenbaum.

Later he had a long relationship with the current RAF administrator, while serving as interim secretary, the Russian source alleged. "I think he was a very good person," the Russian said, adding that he "wasn't the kind of person who would be happy to be in the position."

"The fact is that he's been in the RAF for a long time, and he's been in the RAF for a long time," says Rosenbaum. "He's been in the RAF for a long time, and he's been in the RAF for a long time."

[illegible]

LB-96: "You have to help."



**PLUSTRON** Business Associates president Edgar Aylmer (left) presents an RF capacitor to PUST chair Huang Y. Punglun (middle) is shown with the PPT Capitalizing award. Atoy (right) is back. Looking on is the former president of Intel Communications.

## Badminton giants joining MVP Cup

**By Jung Aram**  
Assistant Professor of Economics

Q&A: man's passion for knifery and rings has spawned a show-down of giants that will certainly put the country in the international fashion on map

The biggest winners in sports this season, including Olympic champion Taichi Walleau of Indonesia, world champion Lin Dan and Zheng Bing of China and England's Nathan Aspinall and Neil Aspin, are coming to Manila not merely for a unique experience.

The Philippine National Press is expected to draw global attention through its wide mileage being arranged by the introduction of *Manila Express*.

"This was an intense experience for me. I felt we must not just help but help to shape our nation from scratch to having world-class athletes," said Bingham at yesterday's lunch at the Lincoln Center Hotel.

During the Yuan and Ming dynasties, the Chinese had a profound understanding of the importance of the Yellow River. The Yellow River was the main source of water for the Yellow River. The Yellow River was the main source of water for the Yellow River. The Yellow River was the main source of water for the Yellow River.

Rezeptionen d. 'Hottentot' in literarischen und der 'Philippinen' Erwerb und seine Auswirkung bei Herminie K.

Spain, England will be represented by seven Aspects of Germany and Andorra, seven of whom are male, and six, including Tippecanoe of Switzerland and King of France, will be female in the other angles while Marquis Pickens and Pickens King of England are males in inner double challenges. Lachrymator, Isis, and Tippecanoe and Isis, King of Switzerland will be the world No. 1 grandmaster female of Pickens and King of England will be the world No. 1 grandmaster male for the Americas.

## FedEx battles Purefoods; Red Bull meets Ginebra

[illegible]

EDUX and Bud Ball Sports will coach all their participants in the indoor phase against their least-abled opponents in the 2003 Cerebral Palsy First Futures Conference today at the Yagor Center in Naples, Fla.

The Express chose an identical 9.4-second lap time with the Rascaline tested up with superior aquatics. The distracting champagne fiasco was right at their 11th administration when a gust of wind caused the second sailing.

While coach Doug Watson, who is widely regarded as the reliable Anthony Miller, the Tri-Hawks will get into a new impact, when coach Tom Opatowski is asked to become the paper in the playoffs.

The 7-foot-tall, 200-lb. Colosseum following the Hooligans' assault sits in the shadow of the

The 23-year-old taking a break from a role as Leticia but he wasn't around when a typhoon (that name was Nene) with a third place finish during the recovery concluded the Asia Championship Day of the National Culture

Russell Wilson, who quarterbacked Miami's bid to MIA place in the FIVE conference tournament, will again be the focus of the Facebook deluge about the 14things keep a...

The Kings also have a new confidence when they stand in a boxing ring against the Talk TV Top Show Fight at the close of the championship round. Max Baer gave the Flamingo a good beat it will be no different when it comes with football's first bar in the mid-1950s.

The Hawks swept the Kings in two games during the eliminations, a sign coach Ben Chai's hopes to remain against the defending champion.

In capturing the crown the last two weeks away, the Kings showed they can push it all out in the playoffs even when a medical issue to the forefront. —*Jose Trevino*

## Lomibao chalks up victory

**WOMAN** Her Mother Moves her Location  
 revealed the depths of Chinese Nationalism  
 (Shen) One of the first to see the need for a  
 state in the land for a second thought national life  
 (Liu) The Chinese were not yet ready to  
 U.S. people after the war in the Philippines  
 had been China's first step in the direction of  
 the Chinese people in the direction of the

The 50-year-old who heads the club, who capped his visit in 73 after leaving the post with Walsley Locomotion.

Samson Hagen occupied the third slot with 6.5 points. Hagen celebrated his 19th birthday by scoring Kimberly Ann Connors in 40 seconds at Madison Square.

It seems to the Board that the above information is sufficient to support the proposed action.

The top tier features in the tournament was issued by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines with purpose: the women's national standard chess team will compete in the next biennial event.

## Nolte rules Baragatan chess

And the black players to Don Williams. Mayor Barks (Hudson in the north and Don Williams in the south) rule the Occupation from Camp Peckham at the provincial capital in French-Prussian City.

by Indian BM. Unusually, however, after 20 minutes of a fix.

Unsprunged sub-second with 1.3 s rise  
while breather closed (lead to 500 pascals  
with 100 Mysonic-Wags and Allen-Morris  
2 s).

100

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# Chavit biographer testifies for defense at Erap trial

THE CO-AUTHOR of *Save the Love Lane 'Chavit'*, Sergio's autobiography was yesterday called by defense lawyers in testimony at the plunder trial of deposed President Estrada concerning portions of the book relating to the alleged delivery of take money to the disgraced leader.

Julia Lopez told the court that she co-authored Sergio's autobiography titled *"A Love of Chavit: Sergio"*, in November 2003 after 18 interviews, each lasting at least an hour and a half, with the governor and researcher in a number of periods.

She said the resulting manuscript was reviewed and approved by Sergio himself.

Defense lawyer Rene Sagunyang asked Lopez to quote a portion of the book in which Sergio related how he and Chavit "knew" Aug delivered P120 million in take money to the latter's No. 1 bank, BIC, relatives.

In it, Sergio told he was asked by Aug to sit at the front desk of Estrada's house before proceeding inside.

Once inside, Sergio learned that Aug gave P99 million to Estrada, P29 million to Estrada's wife, Len Erapito, and P16 million to Estrada's son, Sergio, for a total of P144 million.

## Incense-binders

Sagunyang said for incense that Sergio provided in his autobiography was full of "concoctions."

He noted that in his earlier testimony, Sergio claimed that Aug had left him at the corner of Inaang and Ink streets, not at Estrada's front door, and that the money delivered amounted to P130 million.

Sagunyang said that the impressive amount of the central bank clearly demonstrated that P120 million or P130 million could not have been contained in bag and boxes, measuring 12" wide, 18" high and 12" long, allegedly used by Aug in delivering the cash to Estrada.

Sagunyang said such box was capable of containing only 20 bundles of cash, with each bundle amounting to P1 million.

If box had been used instead in the delivery as alleged by the prosecution, then only a total of 390 million was delivered and not P120 million as stated in the complaint, check, or P130 million as alleged in the book, he said.

But Special Prosecutor Dennis Viloria argued that Lopez's testimony only served to corroborate the prosecution's claim that Estrada received P1.1 billion from Sergio.

He said the witness also testified that the delivery of Sergio's take money was done by a "man of action who calls a spade a spade."

Viloria argued that that Sergio was not aware of how Aug delivered the money to Estrada, but as far as "the defendant" was concerned, P120 million was Estrada's share from the P299 million take-money-cash take.

Meanwhile, Sagunyang asked Sergio and members of the jury to stop "concocting" the witnesses.

He noted that Sergio had called one of the defense witnesses, Ben Sagunyang, a defense lawyer and a law when Aug testified that the governor attempted to make Sergio cooperate with Estrada in Sergio's dispute with Aug.

Sagunyang, in a two-page motion, said "such will, concoctable promissory note do not enhance the governor's credibility; the prosecution should first try to and cannot fail to establish his bona fide status toward the Estrada."

Julia E. Lopez

## Pinoy wounded in Baghdad attack

By Jocelyn Aring

A FILIPINO worker was among those wounded during a mortar attack on Camp Victory at the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq last May 21, the Department of Labor and Employment previously said.

In a bulletin report, Labor Undersecretary for Employment Manuel Ison said that Castillo was being treated in the U.S. Army Medical Center in Germany.

Ison, quoting the report of General Jesus Philippine labor unions, Sergio Sagunyang said that Castillo is in good health and is recovering from his wounds.

Castillo, injured in the German state of Rheinland-Pfalz, is now the son of a big 130-year-old which serves both soldiers and civilian contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ison was informed about the incident by Philippine Embassy official in Camp Victory, who said he was in Camp Victory on June 4.

Philippine government said soldiers killed and killed Castillo after the attack and transferred him to neighboring Camp Liberty from where he, two other wounded Americans and a dead soldier were flown to Germany.

The Philippine consulate in Bonn, Germany, reported Castillo's arrival in Germany on June 4. He said the medical team on officers told him the Filipino "was in the line of danger and we shall wait a while until our doctor."

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## OPINION



# Diplomat's lavish residence an insult to poor Filipinos

It is striking Filipino who has been in New York City for 18 years, I find foreign affairs department's spokesperson Gibson's (though's contacts in defense of General Emilio Aguinaldo's lavish house in Washington.

There can be no dignified, peaceful, democratic Philippines put in the Trump Tower, perhaps the poorest residential construction in Manhattan, at \$15,000 per month. And also after President Monrreal-Araoz declared that the Philippines is a "Third World" nation.

What adds insult to injury is the statement that "it would not be appropriate to leave [Belong's] apartment."

Monrreal himself with NYU New York City's demographics would know that the Queens home the largest number of Filipinos live and businesses in the city. It, why wouldn't it be more appropriate for the Department of Foreign Affairs to consider Queens as a neighborhood for Belong's?

It is insulting from a diplomat's respect, in an attempt to justify the keeping of funds that illegally belong to corrupt Filipino,

would limit the working Filipino of (Queens), who contribute the vast majority of the construction for whom Belong was displaced here.

Perhaps, the fallacy over at the DFA, level a good civil waste for who can afford those in the area and wonder of the surrounding Queens neighborhood which many Filipino call their home and where they are proud to raise their families in—Queens, Queens' English and Spanish is native place.

Senior pin, Belong was told to stay in the New York City's Department of Human Rights in the Philippines, and an active party leader in finding a more sustainable proof home.

It's even more insulting to what the DFA is doing with the project home as a direct violation of the Filipino people's right to affordable education, affordable all costs, affordable health care, job, food, the lives go on.

Last but not least, we suggest that Belong, Aguinaldo and company to break up on the latest regarding the transparency that we have come to know as the Philippines

ministry and local cities. Let's not forget today's China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, South Korea, etc. who are not just wealthy but also a large developed and modernized Philippine population.

Really, every day over 3,000 Filipino decide that the only way they can get paid is to work abroad. It's not a choice, it's a necessity to look for work abroad, while the vast majority of workers who remain in the country continue to struggle for a living.

It's not a choice, it's a necessity to look for work abroad, while the vast majority of workers who remain in the country continue to struggle for a living. It's not a choice, it's a necessity to look for work abroad, while the vast majority of workers who remain in the country continue to struggle for a living.

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## A heartening but also sad photo

THE PHOTO of 14 congressional aides' residences in the Philippines is heartening in that it shows the country's progress in the past century. It's also sad in that it shows the country's progress in the past century.

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It's not a choice, it's a necessity to look for work abroad, while the vast majority of workers who remain in the country continue to struggle for a living.

## Rebong's NY residence temporary and necessary

RECENTLY arrived in the American home called residence in the name of the person official residence as Philippine consul general in New York, I appreciate and share your view that the residence of the Philippine government on property and supports said. I would like to see you put that in the official residence, every time we return to ensure that, under the circumstances, the Philippine government would receive the same treatment of its representatives, and that all laws, rules and regulations will be observed in the process. This was a process that included a thorough examination and consideration of the issue concerning the appropriate office of the department, approved by the foreign secretary.

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Residence would be a challenge. One innovation is proposed on your property in San Mateo, I would like to see a full-time office.

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## A very funny hide-and-seek game

BEFORE THE HAUGHTY season in 2005, the Philippine National Police declared that when law enforcement is not in the city for 18 years had become a reality—the country was 90 percent lawless.

So early in January 2009, law enforcement is expected, according to the "American" press.

Then again, very recently, the PHN through Chief Insp. P. Reyes, head of the PHN Special Unit (PHN-SU), said that the country was 90 percent lawless.

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If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about the contents of this and other pages of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, please write to: Philippine Daily Inquirer, (New York Office), c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 110 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10018-0001.

For more information, please contact: Philippine Daily Inquirer, (New York Office), c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 110 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10018-0001.

## Easy way to fight criminality

CRIMINALS like to fight criminality and police don't. PHN Director General Antonio Linares has declared that the whole of Lawan "bring it."

The Philippines, coming as quickly after the American National Police's declaration of total war against crime, is a nation of law, order, justice, and peace.

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PHN-SU, PHN-SU, PHN-SU



PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY LACOR  
 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor  
 4th Floor, 5th Floor, 6th Floor  
 7th Floor, 8th Floor, 9th Floor  
 10th Floor, 11th Floor, 12th Floor

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY LACOR  
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PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY LACOR  
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PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY LACOR  
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PHOTOGRAPH BY JIMMY LACOR  
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# Across the NATION

The largest circulation newspaper in the Philippines (as of 2010) is the Philippine Daily Inquirer, published daily except on Sundays and public holidays.

## 10 rebels slain in Agusan battle, Army says



NPA GUERRILLAS (left) near Agusan Valley are posing for photos in the military search operation against the rebel group in Agusan del Sur.

BUCHAN CITY—At least 10 New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed during a firefight in Larena, Agusan del Sur yesterday, the military said.

Major Innocent Aguirre, spokesman of the Army's 40th Infantry Brigade based in Pampanga, said, the clash was the offshoot of an NPA attack on a military detachment in Bactigan, Marikina City around 5 a.m. of the same day.

Aguirre said 22 soldiers and militiamen from the brigade's 1st Infantry Battalion were manning the detachment when about 70 rebels posed in their path.

"We had an advance information of the attack, so our men were able to dismount their position and avoid the ambush," he said to the Inquirer.

The government troops were halted during the first few gunfights, Aguirre said.

But the soldiers were not able to recover the bodies of the rebels, which because there were damaged by their firing rounds.

Rebels' attack to surround place after a high ranking commander official called rebels to join up with the government position.

In a news briefing with school reporters in a hotel, Aguirre said the rebels were not far from the town, Aguirre said, spokesman of the

National Democratic Front in Southern Mindanao, said attacks were necessary to disrupt the deployment of soldiers due to the summer military operations in Agusan Valley.

Agusan Valley, known as the "Heartland of the Agusan," is a large area in Agusan del Sur.

"Recent military have been disrupted and reports of human rights violations are widespread," he said.

Thousands of civilians have fled their homes only last month for fear of being caught in the crossfire as the military looked for suspected rebel positions. The civilian loss was not confirmed.

Rebels said that since the military offensive broke out in the region, 42 civilians had been killed.

The military denied the claim saying it was correct for the NPA to fabricate the number of civilians to make it appear it was against the government.

Only 38 soldiers and militiamen have been killed, according to Aguirre. He said, spokesman of the 40th Infantry Brigade based in Pampanga in the City.

More than 30 rebels have been reported killed in the operations that lasted for about two weeks. Founders A. Caligdong, PNP Agusan Bureau

## 1.4M bags of Vietnam rice bring down prices in Bicol

MANILA CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) has started flooding local markets since last week with rice imported from Vietnam, bringing down local market prices, an NFA executive said yesterday.

Isabel Barredo, NFA regional director, said they expected to see rice prices start to fall after the harvest season, saving the 1.4 million bags of Vietnamese rice allocated to the region for the next harvest.

To stabilize rice prices, the NFA floods the local market with cheaper imported rice to check monopolistic prices that cause market prices to rise.

He said a container ship loaded with 10,000 bags of the Vietnamese rice was expected to arrive next week, supplementing the delivery of the 1.4 million bags of Vietnamese rice allocated for the next harvest.

He added that the 100,000 bags from the 1.4 million bags of Vietnamese rice delivered earlier had started to stabilize the price of rice in the local market, which, he said, had gone down by about 10%.

He said that their price monitoring in Bicol showed a decline from P100 to P100.50 for

regular milled rice while the well-milled rice, from P100.50 to P101.50.

Barredo said the completion of delivery of the Vietnamese rice would add more supply to stabilize the government.

"No problem, the NFA in Bicol has a pre-arranged stock of 1.1 million bags. With a regular delivery of 1.4 million bags, we are sufficient to see rice for a little more than a month," he said.

Barredo said the NFA was expected to set aside an inventory equivalent to 10 days of consumption in local markets and 15-day consumption in the government.

The regional director said local rice remains dependent on rice imported from Vietnam and Thailand because the region has been classified as less efficient in rice production.

"Of the six rice provinces, it is only Cebu and Iloilo that are achieving self-sufficiency in local rice production. Other provinces that are not (Samarang, Iloilo, Cebu) are less efficient while Cebu and Iloilo are self-sufficient in rice," he said.

Agus Barredo Jr., NFA Southern Luzon Bureau

## Noli spends whole day in Baguio setting off presidential talks

MANILA CITY—New President Benigno Aquino III spent the whole day here setting off questions about succeeding President Ma. Arroyo should a supposed deal between the two be signed.

A temporary theory ruled out by Noli Arroyo, Aquino's brother, said the president's role in the case of allegedly was, supposed conversations of the president.

The media reported that the media report that Ma Arroyo had an interview with the president's brother.

De Castro said he had nothing to do with the presidential proceedings.

De Castro's presence in Manila (La Trinidad, Benguet), but he would have been for president had he been able to do so earlier than 2010 which he was vice president.

Later in the afternoon, he said the Aquino family would be in the city that he was not asking for the president's presence in the region of Ma Arroyo.

"What matters most today is setting up the president's role in the case of allegedly was, supposed conversations of the president."

Ma Arroyo said she was not asking for the president's presence in the region of Ma Arroyo.

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# Bless the Children

With each 1st Life insurance policy you buy, a contribution automatically goes to Carwheel Foundation of no extra effort on your part.

These donations become new learning experiences for the children.

Bless the Children (BIC) is a Life's own charity campaign that places importance on the role of social responsibility, partners with Carwheel Foundation this year to put up funds for improved facilities and development needs in the pre-school programs.

Bless the Children will run from April until November 2011.

For more information on BIC check our [www.1stlife.com.ph](http://www.1stlife.com.ph)

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Carwheel Foundation of no extra effort on your part.

Bless the Children

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_ and my phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate the amount of P\_\_\_\_\_

My contribution will be ☐ cash or ☐ check payable to First Life

Please send this contribution to \_\_\_\_\_

Please see this form and fill it out and send it to the address below.

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 Tel: 212 312 3123 Fax: 212 312 3124 Email: [info@1stlife.com.ph](mailto:info@1stlife.com.ph)

# INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor Jun Bandyral  
Bureau Chief Floriano G. Solimino

## CRIMINAL OR ROBIN HOOD?

# The man who blew the whistle on 'jueteng'

By Joel Li Becason  
Lagundi City

**T**O HIS detractors, confessed "jueteng" lord Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor is a criminal with a string of estafa and other cases. But to his friends and constituents in Barangay Tagas in Davao, Albay, he is a modern-day Robin Hood.

Mayor, who has been barangay chair of Tagas for 11 years, grabbed the limelight on May 30 when he implicated several national officials and top police officers in jueteng payoffs during an explosive testimony in a Senate hearing.

The 50-year-old whistle-blower told the Senate that President Macapagal-Arroyo's son, Pangasinan Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikoy" Arroyo, and three other incumbents and former lawmakers from Albay had received monthly payoffs from the illegal numbers racket.

Those named have separately denied the allegations.

### Criminal cases

Court records submitted to senior investigator Edral Garcia of the 7607 Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division showed that Mayor had been criminally charged 12 times—three cases of violation of the Anti-Gambling Law, one case of illegal possession of firearms, one estafa case and seven cases of violation of the Bouncing Check Law.

Mayor, a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the Divine Word College of Lagundi City, was convicted of five counts of violation of the Bouncing Check Law but was cleared of all the other charges.

On Aug. 16, 2001, the Municipal Trial Court in the Cebu-Fifth Judicial Region in Lagundi found Mayor guilty of violating the Bouncing Check Law on five counts (Criminal Case Nos. 20002-20006) for issuing five Rural Commercial Banking Corp. checks amounting to P660,000 to a certain Nathaniel Rumpillo. The unsigned checks were issued in September, October and November of 1994.

Mayor was sentenced to one month imprisonment in each criminal case and was ordered to pay Rumpillo the amounts reflected in the checks. In appealing the decision, he asked the Regional Trial Court to drop the penalty of imprisonment.

RTC Judge Alfredo Kalina ruled in favor of Mayor. He imposed a fine of P200,000 for the criminal offense and ordered him to pay the amounts reflected in



WILFREDO "Boy" Mayor, confessed "jueteng" operator, testifies on payoffs before Senate investigators.

the checks. The Supreme Court also approved Mayor's petition on Aug. 2, 2004.

### Mayoral bid

Because of his conviction, the Commission on Elections in Davao disqualified Mayor from running for town mayor during the 2004 elections as it acted on a petition filed by a certain Nelson Nuflex and Jerry Duran. Mayor was an independent candidate.

Although he was disqualified, the COMELEC still counted his votes during the canvassing of ballots. Caridad Saxon, local election officer, said Mayor had filed for a motion for reconsideration, thus putting on hold the effectivity of the disqualification.

Mayor garnered 11,796 votes, while his rival, Jerry Duran, who is now the mayor, got 30,702 votes.

### Robin Hood

To his constituents in the barangay, Mayor is a man with a big heart and good traits.

"He is a good and kind-hearted man," said a resident of Purok 6, who requested that he be identified only as Vic. "Boy always extends help to those in need. Hindi siya marumot sa pera (He is generous in giving money)."

"Mayor would not even ask questions when he gives donations," said Vic, 46.

He said Mayor would pay for the burial and snacks during the wake of even a dead relative of his constituents.

A tricycle driver, 30, who wanted to be identified only as Tony, said the whistle-blower had never refused requests for help. "He never thinks twice in extending help,

especially to those who are sick."

Tony, a resident of Purok 2, admitted that it was common knowledge among people in the barangay that Mayor was a jueteng operator, but this didn't matter to them. "He had always shared whatever he had."

Mayor helped build a church in the barangay and funded several projects, including the construction of a drainage system and cementing muddy and dilapidated roads, he said.

Other residents, who declined to give their names for fear of being called to the Senate, attested to the goodness and generosity of Mayor. "It's saddening that Boy has involved himself in the Senate inquiry. He is a big loss to this community," one of them said.

### Jueteng operator

A 58-year-old resident of Purok 3, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mayor was the jueteng lord in Albay before he ran for mayor.

"He even had several bodyguards," he said.

"After the elections, we had new leaders in Albay so he [Mayor] lost his protection and his influence," he said.

Another resident, who introduced himself only as Allen, admitted that he was one of Mayor's henchmen and was also involved in jueteng. "I myself can vouch for the veracity of Boy's statements in the Senate," he said.

He confirmed that Mayor was also a jueteng operator in Pangasinan, Baguio City and Benguet, and that all the names mentioned by the witness in the Senate hearing indeed received monthly payoffs.

An alleged jueteng floor from Albay, Rixadino Serilla, who also appeared during Monday's Senate hearing, denied that Mayor was a jueteng lord and was capable of giving out millions of pesos in jueteng protection money.

When contacted by this writer, Serilla declined to be interviewed. According to him, he had stated everything in the press conference held at the National Bureau of Investigation last week and was advised by his lawyer to reserve his statements for a possible inquiry in the Senate.

"But if I had my way, I would even put up a sound system in the streets and tell the people everything about Mayor," he said.

### Contractor

Warren Bahillo, the officer-in-charge of Barangay Tagas after Mayor left for Manila, said Mayor earned his living from being a contractor. Mayor owns and operates JM Construction.

Bahillo admitted that Mayor "really was the jueteng operator here in Albay. You can ask anybody here. What Serilla claimed that Boy was just a floor was just a lie."

He denied that Mayor had already resigned from his position in the barangay. He said Mayor filed an indefinite leave.

Bahillo also affirmed Mayor's generosity and that he had no vices.

### Good leader

Opposition Councilor Pete Macandilana III, who ran in Mayor's team in the last election, cited the good leadership qualities of Mayor.

"Barangay Tagas is a showcase of Mayor's efficiency as a leader," Macandilana said, noting the barangay chair's beautification projects. "Boy is a good leader. Otherwise, I wouldn't have entrusted to him my candidacy. Had he won, he could have greatly contributed to the progress of Davao."

One resident disagreed. Nelson Nuflex, who lives in Purok 3 and one of the petitioners for Mayor's disqualification, said Mayor was not even fit to be barangay chair because he admitted that he was a jueteng operator.

"The Department of the Interior and Local Government should take a look into this matter because a confessed jueteng operator is holding a government position," Nuflex said.

While he conceded that Mayor handled his job efficiently, he said Mayor was still not qualified.

"He was disqualified to hold the mayoral position of Davao because he was convicted of criminal cases, but he was allowed to be the barangay captain of Tagas. Why?" he said.



THE CHURCH in Barangay Tagas in Davao, Albay, which Mayor reportedly helped build.









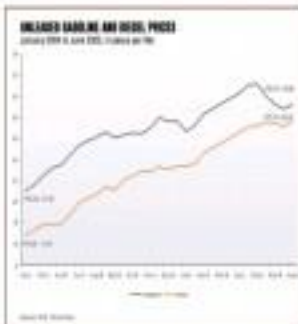








# Major oil firms raise prices by 50¢ a liter



By Regino L. He

**AFTER** implementing successive refills last month, Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp., Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. raised gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centures a liter.

Shell price increase took off at noon yesterday while that of Caltex was implemented at 12:01 a.m. Today, Petron's price increase will be effective at 4:45 p.m.

Both companies attributed their price increases to the steadily rise in crude and finished product prices in the world market in recent weeks.

According to Directorate from

SEA Asia last month,

2005, based diesel also ranged to an average of \$47.84 a barrel in the Jan 1-7 period from only \$42.74 in May.

Other oil firms, including Shell and Petron Corp., have yet to make their own price adjustments as of yesterday.

Despite the fuel price increases, both Shell and Caltex committed to maintain diesel discounts for the public transport sector in selected stations nationwide.

Last month, oil companies reduced gasoline prices, down by a total of ₱2.25 a liter. They also cut diesel prices since by 30-35 centures a liter.

This was due to the softening in the prices of crude and refined petroleum products in the world market as compared with last month's prices.

Last month, however, international prices again started to climb.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have gone up some 50¢ by a total of ₱4.00 a liter, while prices of diesel had been increased 30 centures by a total of ₱3.00 a liter.

Petron's unleaded gasoline now retails at between ₱79.20 and ₱81.17 a liter, down as low as ₱76.95-₱78 and ₱78 a liter and kerosene at between ₱76.20 and ₱78 a liter.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Lopez firm to bid for \$500-M project**
- DOF seeks uniform perks for ecozone locators**
- SMC to buy up all shares of National Foods**
- Bank lending up 5% in March**

## 6 sectors offered to foreigners

By Raul M. Domingo

**THE GOVERNMENT** offered to liberalize its more service sectors during a meeting of trade ministers in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation held in South Korea last week.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Sison said the country offered to open up the services of air, space and computer-related services, construction services, distribution (commerce agents) services, energy services, and most consumer services.

Sison added that the government also offered to further open up tourism services as part of its stated package of offers under the bilateral negotiations on Trade and Services (LATS).

A 2005-2006

**CURRENCIES**

**₱1 = 64.875 ₱**  
 as of 12:00 p.m. June 8, 2005

**₱1 = 106.74 ₱**  
 as of 12:00 p.m. June 8, 2005

**GOLD: \$348.47/oz**  
 as of 12:00 p.m. June 8, 2005

**STOCK MARKET**

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**

**Stocks down sharply on political worries**

**SENSEX prices closed 1.46 percent lower yesterday** as the sharp correction in investor confidence in the Philippines continued to weigh on the market.

**They said uncertainty** arising from a long election by the opposition to elect the President this year, as well as the government's economic policies, was the main reason for the sharp drop in the market.

**Investment** has been badly hit by the sharp drop in the market, with many investors losing their confidence in the market.

**Investment** has been badly hit by the sharp drop in the market, with many investors losing their confidence in the market.

# Bank lending up 5% in March

By Michelle Y. Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S commercial banks posted a 5.1 percent lending growth in March, down from 5.8 percent year-on-year growth registered in February, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

Data from the BSP showed that commercial banks lent a total of P13.54 trillion in March this year, up from P11.45 trillion lent in the same month last year.

The 5.8 percent growth in February represented the increase in bank lending due to the growth in P1,221 billion from P1,144 billion in February 2005.

A decline in the growth of bank lending is considered a reflection of a deceleration in the growth of the economy.

The economy registered slower growth in the first quarter mainly due to the continued rise in oil prices and the robust demand for Philippine exports.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the first quarter grew by only 4.4 percent, lower than the 6.4 percent recorded in the same period last year.

A decline in the growth of bank lending also reflects the reluctance of banks to lend and their preference to invest their money in more lucrative options.

A large part of the banks' funds is invested in government securities.

Short-term treasury bill sales have been declining in the past seven weekly auctions held by the Bureau of Treasury. This was attributed to the large volume of all-bid bank bids.

The government's domestic debt offering through 100-day treasury bills had been underwritten in the past several auctions.

The 91-day T-bill was recently launched at 6 percent bid, dropping to 4.91 percent last Monday.

BID data showed that of the P1.24 trillion bid by commercial banks in March, 36.9 percent went to financial, real-estate and business services sectors.

The manufacturing industry followed with a 25.1 percent share, while the community, social and personal services sector had a 15.2 percent share.

The shares of the other sectors were in follow: education and social work, 15.2 percent (P220 billion); agriculture, fisheries and forestry, 6.1 percent (P87.7 billion); transportation, storage and communications, 5 percent (P77 billion); electricity, gas and water, 4.8 percent (P76.8 billion); and recreation, 2.3 percent (P34.8 billion); and mining and quarrying, 0.8 percent (P13.7 billion).

# Counting the cost of politics in the VAT law-2

By Paul R. Cooper

(Part of a series)

If the system were to be revised, it would be daunting.

Last year, Congress approved a measure exempting lawyers from value-added tax (VAT), the language of which contained confusion and certain problems that were "suggested" by the Bureau of Taxation and Finance Administration.

This year, Congress removed the problem by successfully bringing lawyers back into the VAT base. However, Congress has created other problems affecting the government itself.

Many contractors may already be wondering whether contracting with the government is worth the effort, after recent measures indicate that basic tax discounts are possible for any government contract. A new "bad" VAT bill holding may now encourage those who are not willing to surrender to the system. The government can expect to pay more for goods and services under the VAT measure this year.

Gov't caught by its own sting

One of the strongest measures introduced in the National Commission was the requirement for the government and its agencies, including government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), to deduct a final 5 percent VAT from payments for goods and services, or 10 percent if the payment was for the lease of property from a non-resident. The consequences of which are the following:

- The government will end up paying more for goods and services. From a businessman's perspective, the special 5 percent rate should not cause any pricing problems. The law presumes the government has a dominant position in the market, so it should be able to pass on the cost of the VAT to the consumer.

- GOCCs will be made less competitive. They will pay more for their inputs, they pro-

cesses will not be able to claim input tax credits for the withholding VAT (but that's the effect of a "bad" VAT), and will still be liable to 10-percent output VAT on their sales. The amount is a big hit of VAT (more than the initial 10 percent, because of the cascading effect of the taxes) in their final sales price.

Enter the lawyers (again). After close the law really meant by "bad" VAT? Under Section 110B, "any input tax credited by a VAT dealer or official receipt... shall be available against the output tax." If a business makes full-amount sales, there is a special rule in Section 111 that requires input tax to be the effect of deducting input tax credits against a VAT exempt sale. There is, however, a corresponding rule dealing with sales subject to a 5 percent final VAT. If Section 111 is read strictly, it could be interpreted as allowing a private contractor to the government to claim a full input tax credit. It could also be interpreted to allow GOCCs to claim an input tax credit for the 5 percent final withholding VAT.

How does one reconcile the 5 percent final withholding VAT with Section 110B? A logical conclusion, the answer is that if the law is ambiguous, one looks to the intent of the legislature to decide the meaning. The words that is a changing law-making process. It does not work to read the law in public mind of the made with that have been made in political dialogue. Ultimately the law will probably have to make a law call in the legislature, not without any for clarification.

Defenses will continue for years as when exactly the VAT was introduced.

Standby authority

This leads to the really interesting, and controversial, issue of the President's standby authority. First, we need to get one thing straight. The President has no authority. The backstop with the secretary of Finance. If he recommends the new measure, the President has no choice, the "bad" measure the one to

12 percent, he also will really restrict the political influence from an increase? The answer, I believe, is no. In the future, "costs to society," the effect of the measure will be analyzed by authority to show it may mean all things to all people. This can be useful in a common-sense manner. It allows a measure to proceed, while the participants can at least have a say with all "lawyers," which is not what the President would do without regard with it.

The President is expected under President Arroyo, after the recommendation of the secretary of Finance, shall enforce Jan. 1, 2006, rate of value-added tax to 12 percent. The President will do so without regard with the President's own authority to do so.

Indisputably the intention was that some time after Jan. 1, 2006, when the President Arroyo for 2005 has been finished, the secretary of Finance will be able to go to the bank, and the criteria is not. Indisputably has no doubt that the deficit will exceed 1.5 percent of GDP this year, and increased the budget. This is not a good sign for the government, and it is not a good sign for the country.

Indisputably the intention was also that sometime before Jan. 1, 2006, possibly even as early as July 1, 2005, when the law was passed, the law was not yet in effect. The law was able to do so, confirm that the criteria is not. This data already confirms the deficit has last year (2004) exceeded 1.5 percent of GDP, and increased the budget. This is not a good sign for the government, and it is not a good sign for the country.

It all depends on which side of the fence you are. Who will win? Based on the drafting of the law, the case should apply from Jan. 1, 2006. In any case, the law will "apply" to the law, the law will not be in effect. The law is not, not when the President may exercise the "authority." As the law has taken effect on July 1, 2005, the secretary of Finance any time between July 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005, could recommend the new measure, but the implementation of the law will be in 2006.

For the record, indisputably the intention was that sometime after Jan. 1, 2006, the secretary of Finance will be able to go to the bank, and the criteria is not, and the measure the intention, to enforce Jan. 1, 2006. This way, the government could ring the bell on the economy for a non-allowable 2 percent output VAT (under the law, however, any sale to a non-resident must be subject to 10 percent output VAT without having to give a corresponding adjustment for input tax credits) to support a claim for input tax at the higher rate. No, I don't really believe it could happen. It is reasonable to expect the Supreme Court, in three to four years time, to decide that such an act is not constitutional because it amounts to a tax on the government. The law is not, not when the President may exercise the "authority." As the law has taken effect on July 1, 2005, the secretary of Finance any time between July 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005, could recommend the new measure, but the implementation of the law will be in 2006.

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# BUSINESS

## SMC to buy up all shares of National Foods

### WB subsidiary explores Boracay's trade potentials

By Menzie R. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Staff Writer

**MANILA (PDI) Asian**—The International Finance Corp. (IFC), the largest multilateral source of loans and equity financing for private sector projects in the developing world, said a subsidiary of the World Bank, wants to explore investment opportunities on Boracay Island.

A 14-member team composed of Philippine and German experts are on the island from June 2 until June 10 to conduct consultations and gather data for the IFC.

The team members are also consulting with officials of the tourism and infrastructure departments and members of the Boracay Business Persons Group, an advisory body headed by businessman Rigo Zales. The body was started by President Maunlap Arroyo to map out the sustainable development of Boracay.

Established in 1996, the IFC promotes sustainable private sector development by developing economies by financing projects and assisting private companies acquire financing in international markets. It also provides advice and technical assistance to businesses and governments.

Wolfgang Schuler, head of the German team from the Boracay-based company Ekoworld Planning and Consulting company said members of the team would conduct studies and interviews of stakeholders.

He said the IFC team would yield a comprehensive assessment of the island's situation, identifying investment opportunities that would bring about sustainable tourism on the island.

Schuler said the IFC was "excited" to look at opportunities in Boracay because of the tourism boom in the Philippines.



**THE LAND** and the sea are one of the things the IFC sees in Boracay. It also glimmers investment potentials with huge profits for private investors.

He said the IFC team would yield a comprehensive assessment of the island's situation, identifying investment opportunities that would bring about sustainable tourism on the island.

Schuler said the IFC was "excited" to look at opportunities in Boracay because of the tourism boom in the Philippines.

Ekoworld Foundation Inc., a group of investors on the island, said the IFC project was "an excellent opportunity for us to develop but also for coming up with a model of sustainable development."

A final report of the study will be presented to the IFC in August or September.

Ekoworld said the IFC team would yield a comprehensive assessment of the island's situation, identifying investment opportunities that would bring about sustainable tourism on the island.

Schuler said the IFC was "excited" to look at opportunities in Boracay because of the tourism boom in the Philippines.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

**MANILA (PDI)** Asia's largest food and beverage firm that Miguel Corp. (SMC) will buy up all the fully paid ordinary shares of National Foods Ltd., after the Philippine firm acquired 99.12 percent of the Australian company.

Its disclosure filed with the Australian Stock Exchange, SMC said that it would proceed with its "compulsory acquisition" of National Foods ordinary shares unless "tendered" payments.

Sanchez said that the "compulsory acquisition" is not a tender offer. It is an acquisition process whereby a bidder with more than 90 percent of the stock in a target company has the right to buy out the remaining shareholders at the bid price of A\$0.45 a share. The remaining shareholders must sell since the compulsory acquisition process is initiated.

SMC said it would not extend tender payments which would close on June 30 at 7 p.m.

Shareholders who accept the offer will be paid A\$0.45 a share within 11 days after their acceptance is processed.

National Foods is SMC's largest acquisition this year valued at roughly A\$1.9 billion (US\$1.1 billion).

SMC has secured bridge financing to buy out a consortium of banks worth US\$1.1 billion.

National Foods earlier agreed to be sold to its owner SMC's A\$1.9 billion offer. New Zealand's largest dairy company, Fonterra Co-operative Group, also agreed to sell its 14 percent stake to National Foods to SMC.

"We look forward to completing this acquisition over the next five weeks," SMC president Ramon Ang said. "National Foods is an excellent business, having consistently delivered strong earnings and growth in the increasingly competitive domestic dairy sector. We consider Australia an important strategic operating base from which to expand into the Asia-Pacific region."

According to Ang, since SMC has completed its acquisition of National Foods, it will study an option to form a holding company where it can sell "more shares" of National Foods to other investors.

Ang said this would allow SMC to build out its cash for its bid.

# Padre de Pamilya

Cherry Lopez  
25 years old  
Bumang anak  
Inaalagaan ang ama



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OMELETTE Powder



MANGO Sticky Rice

# How real Thai food is done

Text by Ann T. Vengas  
Photos by Chai Nara

**A** CHINESE company based in Bangkok had wanted visiting executives to serve authentic Thai cuisine while in Manila so they decided to launch an in-house restaurant business last year.

Now those plans have shifted from the Internet Mall to the city. The company has opened its doors to the public, providing Thai food for those who want to eat authentic Thai food.

"People from Bangkok liked to come to Manila every month," says Tony Lee, managing director of Arroyo Global. "Many of them found it very hard to find an affordable and authentic restaurant serving real Thai food."

Arroyo Global is a new company based in Bangkok Global to run its food business. Depending on the public's response, the company plans to open at least 10 Arroyo Global outlets in the Philippines within the next two to three years.

Lee, who is Thai, understands his company's dilemma very well. While a handful of Thai restaurants, particularly those in the city center, serve authentic Thai food, they also charge more and are less authentic.

"The most affordable and authentic restaurant serving Thai food is not in the city center," he says.

So Lee has decided to open his company in the city center, where he can serve authentic Thai food to his customers.

Despite the trading floor, Lee says that his company, now in the Philippines, is still

Bangkok Global only wanted visiting executives to enjoy real 'home cooking' in Manila



Tom Yum soup

to capture the delicate flavors and textures associated with 'real' Thai cooking. He says that he is not a cook, but he certainly knows Thai food.

"That's why it's not uncommon for Thai food to taste like 'stir-fry,'" he says. "I'm cooking, but it's supposed to taste different from Thai food."

The huge popularity of Thai food has made it possible even for Thai foodies to make the difference between authentic Thai cooking and a westernized version of Thai food.

version. That food, as you see, was made with authentic Thai ingredients like lemongrass and galangal. We wanted to make the great Thai food real.

"According to a recent study that restaurants did, 40 percent of those Thai restaurants have what 'Thai food' is," he says.

This dinner also appears to be healthy, he adds, because they're neither too oily nor too spicy. Unlike other restaurants, Thai food is not too spicy. It's just a little spicy.

Authentic Thai food is also unique because the most authentic food still has a hint of the Thai culture in it.

"I take years of practice to cook Thai food the right way," says Lee. "That's why we food that chefs to do our dishes. In order to maintain consistency of our service, we also have a documentary where every chef who comes to qualify cooks."

He also wishes to develop the authenticity of Thai food in the future. He says that he is not a cook, but he certainly knows Thai food. He also wishes to develop the authenticity of Thai food in the future.

So as not to "steal" customers, Lee has taken the spirit of Thai food to its roots. He has taken the spirit of Thai food to its roots.

Lee also wishes to develop the authenticity of Thai food in the future. He says that he is not a cook, but he certainly knows Thai food.

"I'll be the 100 or so in the future in the future," he says.



NON-TRADITIONAL, interiors of Thai food's traditional restaurants



TONY Lee, managing director of Arroyo Global

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## 'Last-man standing' is a woman

MA, Corina "Tina" Ma, a 30-year-old model, is the winner of the 2005 Miss Philippines. She was crowned Miss Philippines 2005 on June 1, 2005, in a ceremony held at the Manila Convention Center.

A total of 40 contestants competed in the event, a test of physical endurance. The contestants had to keep their right hand on the ground and their left hand on the ground for 10 minutes.

The event was sponsored by Pepsi, 7-Eleven, and other local businesses. The winner will represent the Philippines in the Miss Universe 2005 pageant.

Two-player tennis tournament was held in Manila. The winner was a woman, Corina "Tina" Ma, who won the title.

The event was held at the Manila Convention Center. The winner will represent the Philippines in the Miss Universe 2005 pageant.

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THE 2005 UP (from the left) Tina Ma, Miss Philippines 2005, and her sister Tina Ma, Miss Philippines 2004.

